Allocation of Funds for the Welfare of P and T Employees

1264. SHRI RAMCHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of revenue and expenditure (separately) earmarked for the welfare of Telecom and Postal employees during the past; and

(b) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken to allocate/spend a respectable portion on it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The percentage of revenue and expenditure earmarked for the welfare of Telecom and Postal employees during the last three years is as follows:—

Department	Allocation of funds for welfare					
	Percentage of Revenue			Percentage of Expenditure		
	96-97	97-98	98-99	96-97	97-98	98-99
Telecom	0.34	0.42	0.37	0.62	0.72	0.60
Posts	0.15	0.14	0.15	0.06	0.06	0.06

(b) As welfare programmes are need based, allocation of funds towards staff welfare is made in consonance with the requirement.

Maintenance of Rani Jhansi's Fort

†1265. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the historic place of Jhansi standing witness to the chivalry and bravery of valiant queen Laxmibai is in a sorry state and has been losing the sign of its glorious past;

(b) if so, the reasons for the negligence of the historic fort of the queen who fought against British rule during the movement of 1857; and

(c) if not, the details of the arrangements regarding the maintenance protection and proper lighting of the fort with the details of the ways for maintaining other ancient monuments of India?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(c) The Jhansi Fort was protected as a monument of national importance under the Ancient Monuments & Archaeological Sites and Remains Act 1958 in 1986. Conservation works, based upon periodic inspections, as per normal practice, are taken up according to the assessed need of the monument and availability of resources.

The ASI has approved the proposal of Uttar Pradesh Tourism Department to flood light the monument.

Birth Centenary of Bhagwan Mahavira

1266. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 2600th birth centenary of Bhagwan Mahavira is to be celebrated by the Government;

(b) if so, whether Government has formed an All India Committee in this regard; and

(c) whether Government are considering to bring out coins of rupees 1, 2 and 5 having Dhyan Mudra of Bhagwan Mahavira as a part of 2600th birth centenary celebrations?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) The proposal to celebrate the 2600th Birth Centenary of Bhagwan Mahavira and to set up a National Committee in this regard is under consideration of the Government. However, the Centenary celebrations start only from 16th April, 2001.

(c) This is to be considered by the Committee as and when set up.

World Heritage Sites

1267. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in the Asian Age (Delhi-Age) dated 23rd December, 1999, captioned, "India misses the mark with World Heritage Sites";

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to compete in the matter of World Heritage, indicating the heritage sites/items with respect to which documentation has been put up for the purpose?